Book 4

Week of Unity

Milad un-Nabi

Project Booklet

Under the Guidance of Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for
Syed Safdar Hussain Zaidi,
the marḥūmīn of the Hasni & Zaidi families,
the sponsors of this project booklet.

Important dates in Rabīʿ al-Awwal

1st	Migration of the Noble Prophet (ṣ) from Mecca to Medina
8th	Shahādah of Imām Ḥasan al-ʿAskarī (ʿa)
9th	Eid az-Zahrāʾ; Imāmah of 12th Imām (ʿaj) begins
10th	Marriage anniversary of Noble Prophet (ṣ) and Ḥaḍrat Khadījah
12th	Wilādah of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) (by some traditions)
12-17th	Week of Unity
15th	Masjid al-Qūbaʾ, the first Islamic mosque, is constructed
17th	Wilādah of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) and Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa)
24th	Wilādah of Imām Ḥasan al-ʿAskarī (ʿa) (by some traditions)

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who contributed to this booklet.

INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION:

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Kids Bible Teacher: “The Bible is My Light” Spinner

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بِسۡمِ اللّٰہِ الرَّحۡمٰنِ الرَّحِیۡمِ

Salāmun ʿalaykum,

May Allah (swt) bless us, our families, and our communities. My tabrīkāt, taḥiyyāt, best wishes and congratulations to the Imām of our time, Imām al-Mahdī (ʿaj), our great marājiʿ and scholars, and to the Muslim ummah on the wilādah of the best human being created on earth, the hope and mercy of the worlds, the perfect example and role model for humankind, our Noble Prophet of Islam, Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ), and on the wilādah of our sixth Imām, Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa).

Throughout our lives, we create and develop different kinds of connections with those around us. These relationships can be as broad as those of humanity, or as close as those in our family. During these days of the Noble Prophet's wilādah, we are encouraged to speak about and ponder upon unity among the Muslim ummah. In the Qurʾān, Allah (swt) says, "Indeed this community of yours is one community, and I am your Lord. So worship Me."[1] In this verse, Allah (swt) is emphasizing the importance of an ummah that is united in their worship of Him. Let us focus on some of the common beliefs that we share as Muslims:

- Tawḥīd: The oneness of Allah (swt) is the foundational belief of all Muslims. We all believe that there is only one God, who is the creator, sustainer, and the only one worthy of worship.
- Nubuwwah: As Muslims, we are all connected to Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ). He is like a father of the Muslim ummah, and this connection we have with him encourages us to improve our akhlāq, which will help us to be more united.
- Maʿād (afterlife): The belief in an afterlife is an essential belief among all Muslims. It gives us a goal that we can work toward, and to act accordingly. Remembering that there will be a judgment day makes us more conscious of our actions and increases our taqwā (God-consciousness).
- 5 Daily Prayers: The 5 daily prayers are a fundamental practice in Islam. They are a way for Muslims to connect with Allah (swt) and seek His guidance and blessings throughout the day.

When discussing unity, it's important to avoid delving into our beliefs in madhhab (schools of thought), jurisprudence, and practices. We should not allow our differences to divide us or divert our purpose of fostering unity among fellow Muslims. However, we should be aware of them so that we do not ridicule other peoples' beliefs, nor compromise our own. The essential point is that, even if others don't share our beliefs, they have the right to express and practice their own. We come together for a greater purpose: the power of numbers to build a society that safeguards our shared Islamic interests and values, at the very least. Anything that undermines our unity diminishes this collective strength.

So, what can we do today? When a Muslim enters an Islamic center, they should be warmly welcomed and supported in practicing their beliefs. It is important to respect their individual choices and not impose any specific practices on them. Unity among Islamic centers doesn't mean they have to be managed by one central authority. Each center can maintain its independence while still fostering strong relationships with others. Ultimately, all centers are dedicated to serving Allah (swt). If we engage in good dialogue amongst ourselves to have a united front in our common ground and not highlight our differences, we can be successful.

1 Noble Qurʾān, Sūrah al-Anbiyāʾ (21), Verse 92.

In honor of the wilādah of our Noble Prophet (ṣ), we are pleased to launch the Week of Unity Project Booklet. This booklet includes five lesson plans that have been put together in collaboration with scholars and educators. We pray these projects will assist in planting the love of our Noble Prophet (ṣ) and his Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) in our children and serving the oppressed of the world through prayer and good deeds. By following the right role models and serving Allah's creatures all around the earth, inshāʾAllāh we become closer to Him.

Our humble request is to create a two-way connection by all of us sharing our expertise and experiences and avoiding duplicated work, in order to maximize our potential. Please share your ideas, experiences, and successes with us, so that together, we can all move forward and build a global network.

We pray that Allah (swt) gives us the tawfīq to actualize our duties and responsibilities.

Jazākallāh khayrā and best wishes,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)
Resident ʿĀlim of SABA Islamic Center

Together We Stand

Objective: Students will learn about how knowledge affects our behavior.

In the month of Rabīʿ al-Awwal, we celebrate the wilādah of two special personalities: Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ), and Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa). We celebrate the Noble Prophet's wilādah on the 17th of Rabīʿ al-Awwal while other Muslims celebrate it on the 12th of Rabīʿ al-Awwal. The days in between are known as the Week of Unity. Despite our differences, we are united in our love of the Noble Prophet (ṣ), and take him as a role model. One of the things he was known for was his exceptional akhlāq.

A good way to improve our akhlāq is to gain knowledge. When we gain knowledge, we practice the ability to ponder and see multiple perspectives. This helps us see things in a more complete picture, and enhance how we talk and treat others. Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) said: "People, who have greater minds, will have better behavior."

The Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) are a great example of being very knowledgeable and having the best akhlāq. If we learn from their teachings and study how they acted, we can expand our minds and improve our akhlāq. They are a light that we can turn to, just like a sunflower turns to the sunlight to grow. Today, we are going to make a craft that will remind us to always follow the Noble Prophet (ṣ) and the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa).

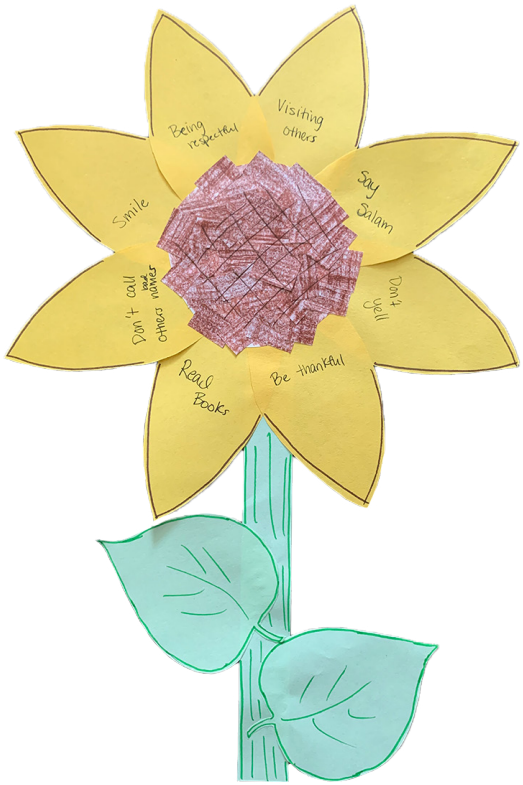
Growing Sunflowers

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 40 minutes

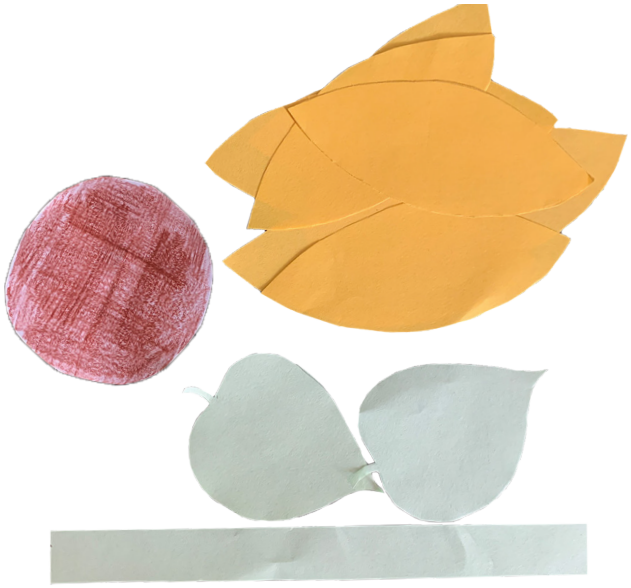
Materials:

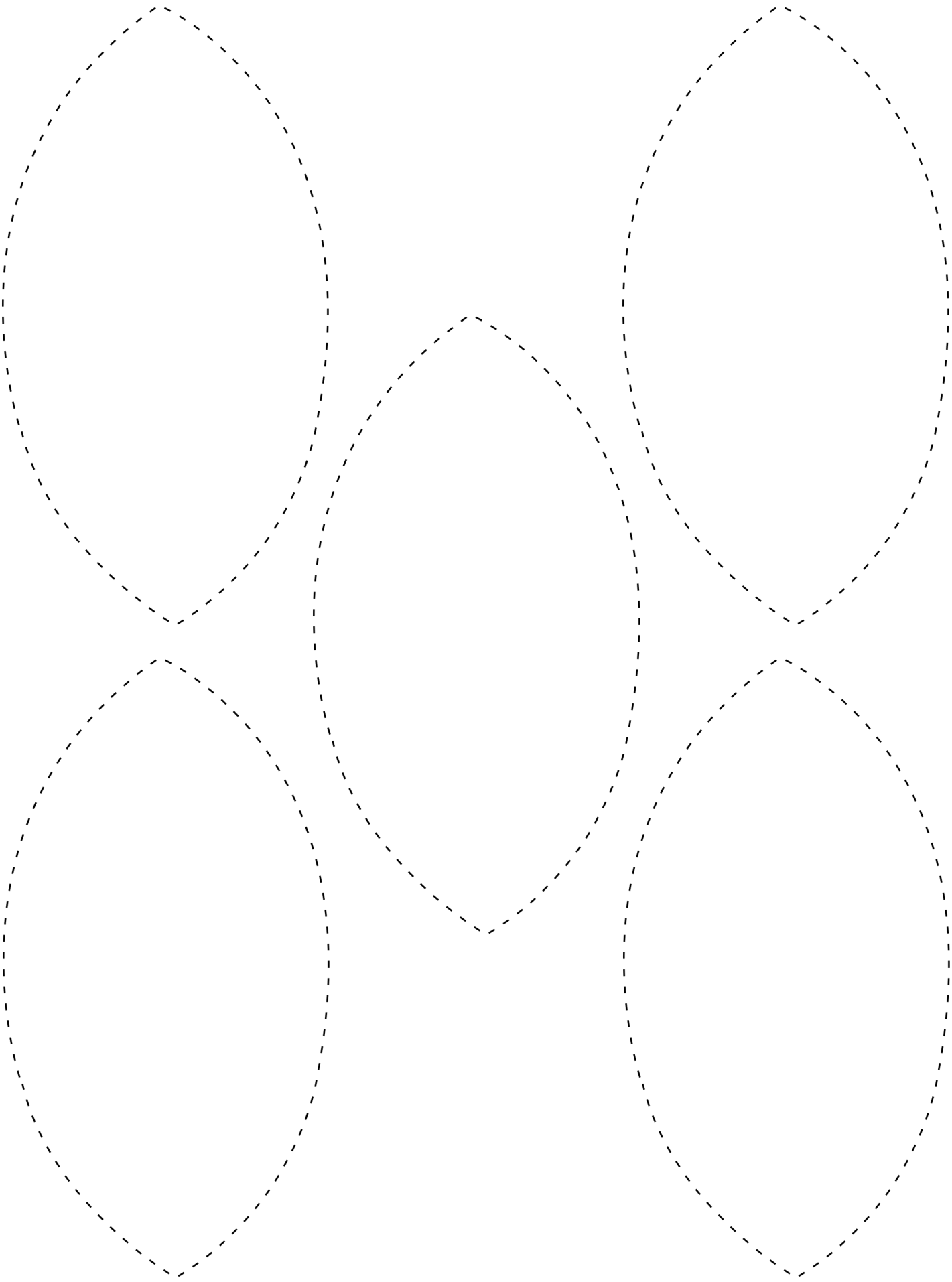
- Sunflower template
- Black or brown construction paper
- Optional: yellow and green paper
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue/tape



Procedure:

1. Color and decorate the sunflower petals, stem, and leaves from the template (optional: you can make the petals from yellow paper, and the stem and leaves from green paper).
2. Cut out all of the pieces by cutting along the dotted edges.
3. Glue or tape the petals behind the circle piece from the template.
4. Now glue or tape the stem and leaves to make the flower shape.
5. Take the black (or brown) construction paper and make small random pieces. Glue these pieces to the circle piece. This will be the center of the sunflower.
6. On each petal, write ways we can have good akhlāq and be united.
7. Finish decorating the craft however you like.





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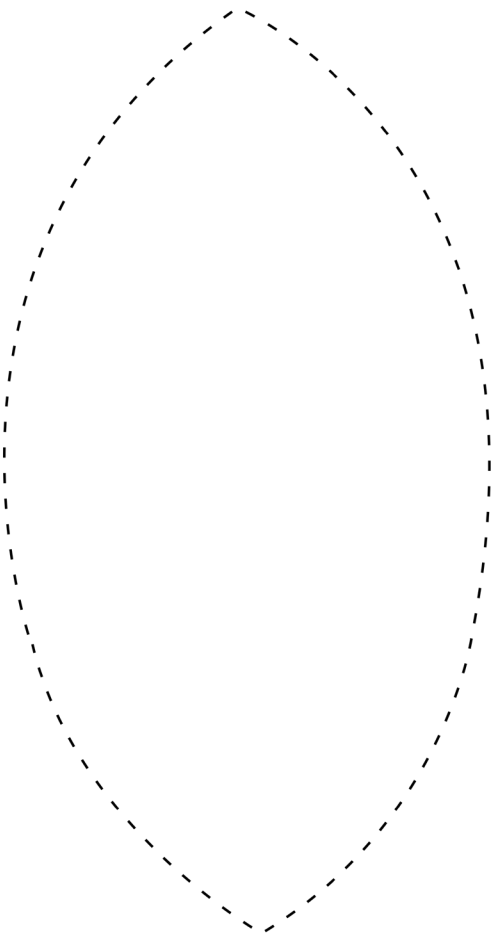

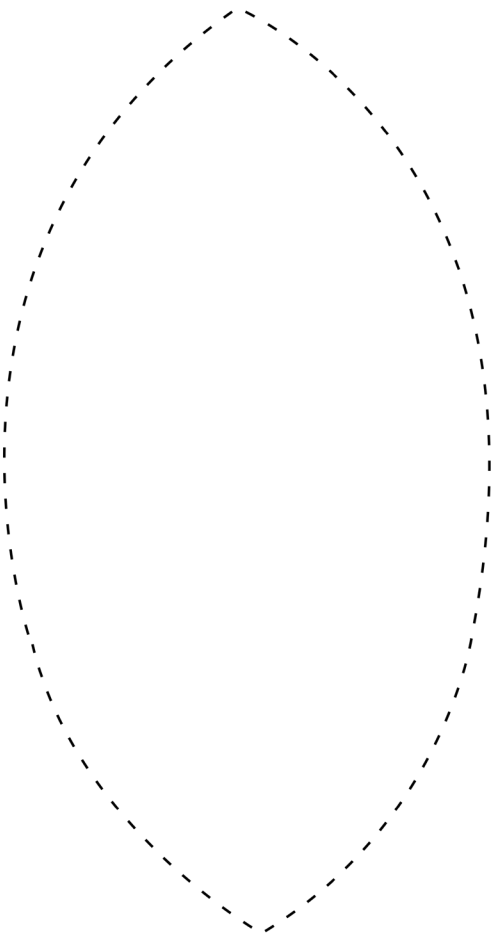

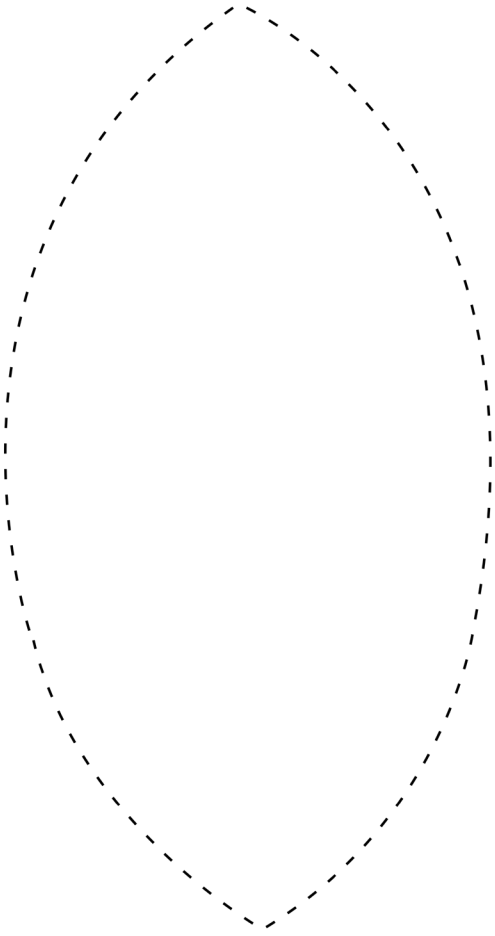

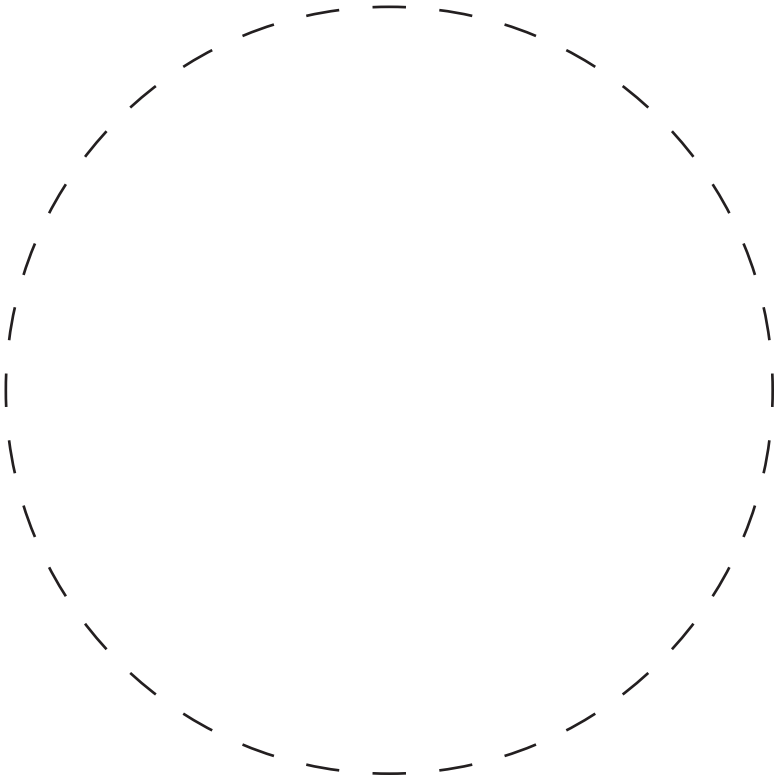

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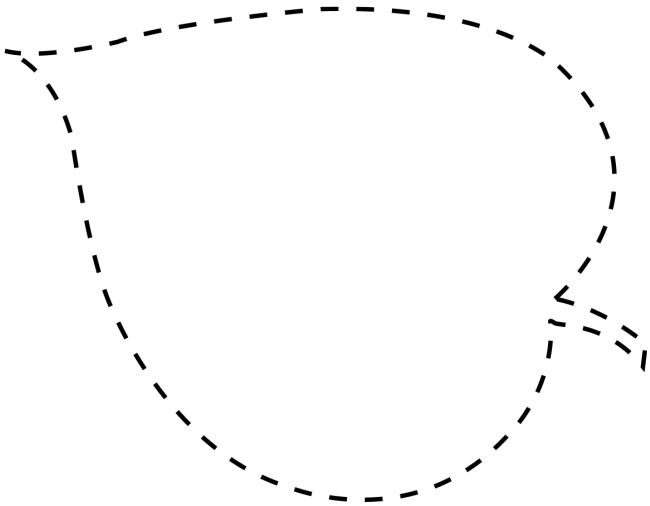

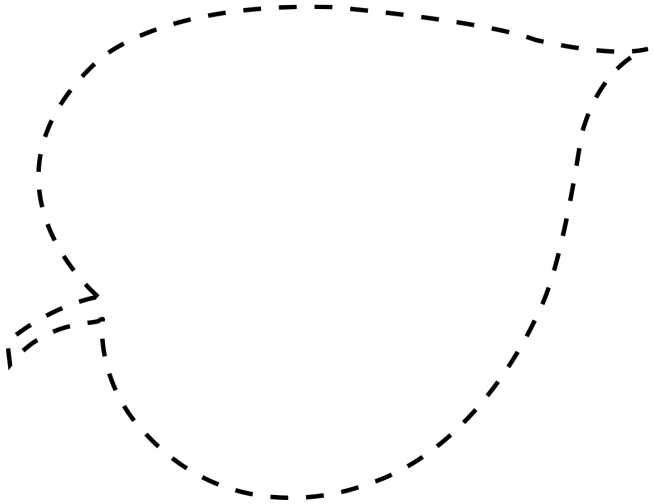

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Elephant in the Room

Objective: Students will learn about some practical steps to resolve conflicts.

The Noble Prophet (ṣ) was born in ʿĀmul Fīl, or the year of the elephant. In that year, a man named Abraha brought an army of elephants to Mecca to destroy the Holy Kaʿbah. Allah (swt) sent a flock of birds, who threw stones and defeated the elephant army. In our lives today, we sometimes face "elephants" or problems that could possibly ruin our relationships, whether it be with Allah (swt), family, or friends.

There is a duʿāʾ mentioned in the Qurʾān, where Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) is asking Allah (swt) for help to face Firʿawn. He prays to Allah (swt) to open up his heart, make his task easy, and to make his speech clear, so that they can understand him.1 From this verse, we can see some practical ways to resolve conflicts. The first thing we can do is open our hearts. This means to actively listen to what others are saying, and really understand them. Next, we should provide a peaceful environment that makes it easier to come up with solutions. Lastly, we can speak in a clear and respectful manner, in order to explain the problem. Although all conflicts don't end in total agreement, they can still result in an understanding between each other.

Elephants are big and strong animals, but in the story, we saw that they were overcome by small birds. Today, we are going to make a craft that can show us how even the smallest actions can resolve the biggest conflicts.

1 Noble Qurʾān, Sūrah Ṭāhā (20), Verses 25-28

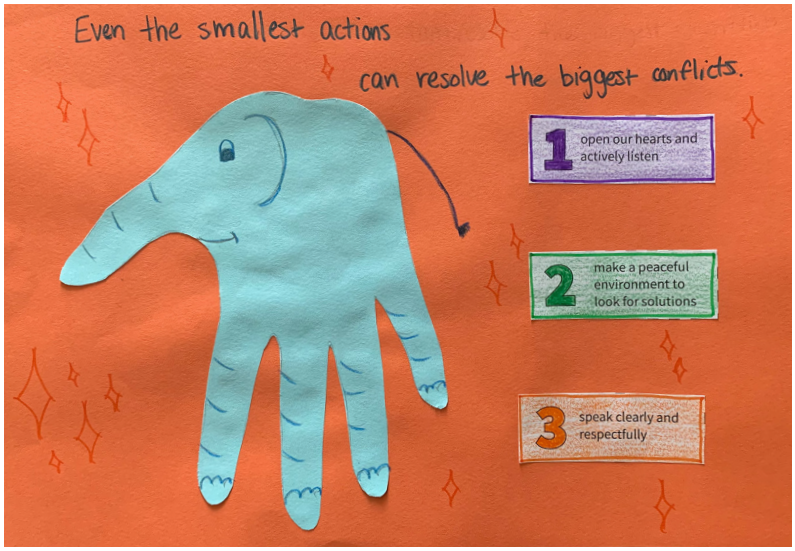
Elephant Handprints

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- 3 steps template
- 2 pieces of construction paper (any colors)
- Pen/pencil
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue/tape



Procedure:

1. Trace your hand on one of the papers (can do more than 1 if you like).
2. Cut out the handprint.
3. Glue the handprint onto the other paper with the fingers pointing down.
4. Draw on the handprint to make them look like elephants, with eyes, ears, a trunk, a tail, legs, etc.
5. Cut out the 3 steps to resolve conflict from the template.
6. Glue them to the page with the elephants.
7. Finish coloring and decorating however you like.

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1 open our hearts and actively listen

2 make a peaceful environment to look for solutions

3 speak clearly and respectfully

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A Great Character

Objective: Students will discover how to be kind to others from the example of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ).

When we talk about the Noble Prophet (ṣ), his beautiful manners, or akhlāq, and character shine in every instance. In the Qurʾān, Allah (swt) says, "... indeed you [Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ)] possess a great character."[1]

Once, Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) was on a journey, when he decided to rest under the shade of a small tree. A man passing by, who was an enemy of the Prophet (ṣ), saw that he was alone and thought it a good time to attack him. The man went towards him with a drawn sword and asked the Prophet (ṣ), "Tell me who can help you now?"

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) calmly and confidently replied, "Allah (swt)."

Seeing this calm assurance, the enemy was frightened, and the sword fell from his hands. With the same calmness, the Prophet (ṣ) picked up the sword and asked the man, "Now, you tell me who is there to save you?"

"No one," replied the enemy.

"No, you are wrong. The same Allah (swt) will also help you," said the generous Prophet (ṣ), and he let the enemy go free. Seeing this noble act of kindness, the man accepted the religion of Islam right away.

From this story, we can see the kind character of the Prophet (ṣ). When he had the opportunity to hurt the man who was attacking him, he chose to forgive instead. Sometimes, we may face those who have hurt us, but rather than treating them rudely or doing something mean to them, we can treat them with respect and kindness. This elevates our character and brings us closer to Allah (swt). Today, we are going to make a craft that shows how we can be kind like the Prophet (ṣ).

1 Noble Qurʾān, Sūrah al-Qalam (68), Verse 4.

Kindness Card

Suggested Ages: 5+

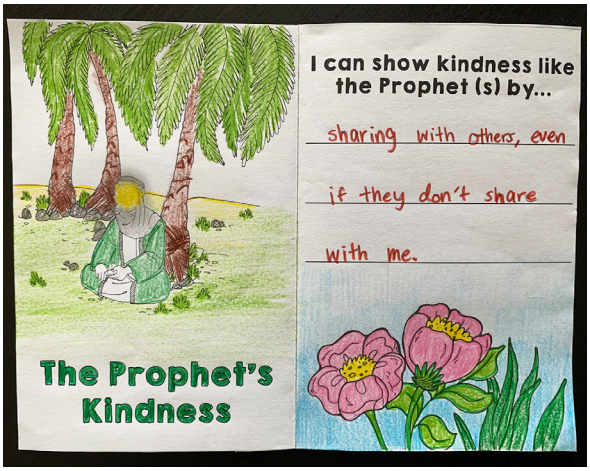
Time: 40 minutes

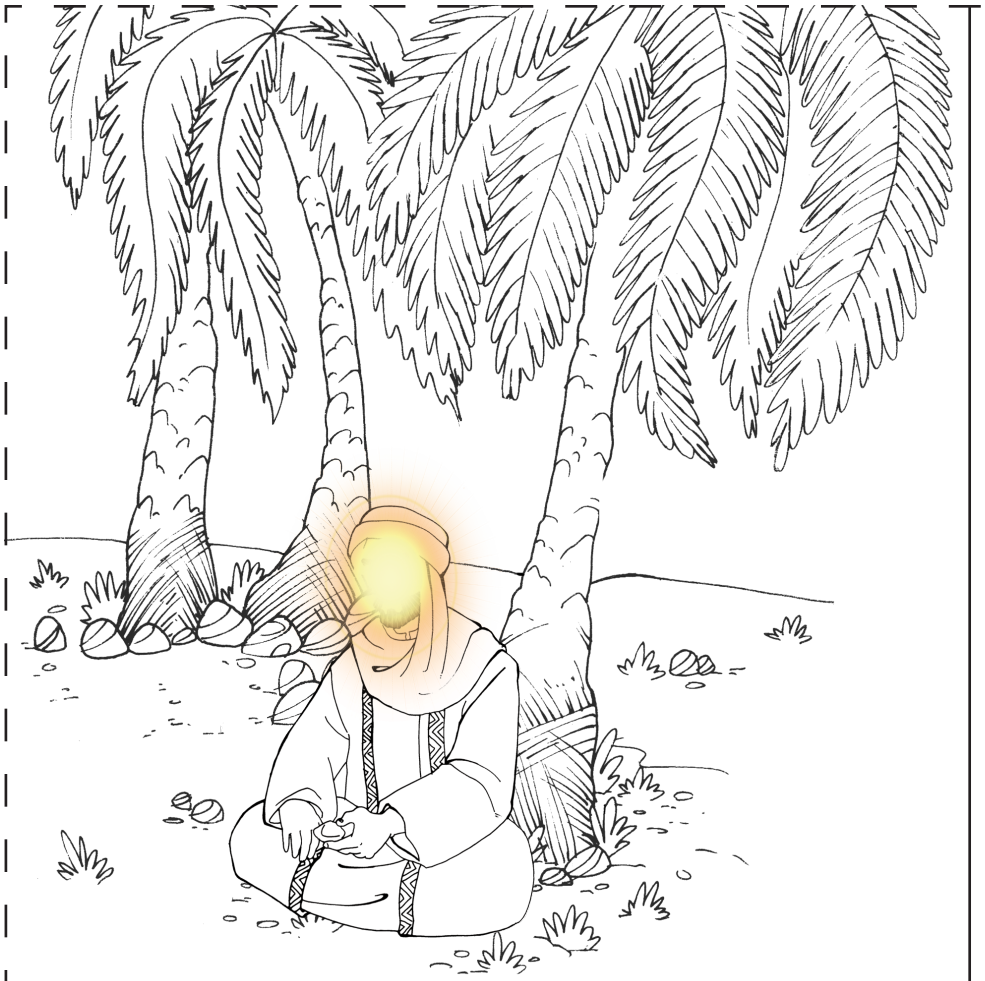
Materials:

- Card template
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue/tape

Procedure:

1. Color and decorate the images however you like.
2. Write one way you can show kindness, like the Prophet (ṣ).
3. Cut out the card by cutting along the dotted outer edge.
4. Fold the card in half along the solid line. The pictures should be inside.
5. Decorate the outside of the card however you like.





The Prophet's Kindness

I can show kindness like the Prophet (s) by...

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Seeking Knowledge

Objective: Students will learn about the importance of seeking knowledge.

Earlier we talked about how knowledge helps us improve our akhlāq and behavior. There are so many other benefits as well. This can be seen in the life of our 6th Imām, Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa). His mission as Imām was to spread knowledge to many people. It was another way of combating against the enemies of Islam.

Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) taught thousands of students about different topics including the Qurʾān, Islamic laws and beliefs, and the sciences. His knowledge was passed on to us through ḥadīth. These are like a refresher for the soul as they rejuvenate us, and prompt us to ponder about ourselves and the world around us. Some of his ḥadīth about the importance of gaining knowledge include:

- "One who has knowledge never says useless things."[1]
- "A person who has knowledge must teach others with kindness, and must learn more with humility."[2]
- "If people knew [the benefits] of seeking knowledge, they would try and learn more even if they have to struggle or even dive into the deepest seas."[3]
- "There is an alms tax for everything. The alms tax for knowledge is teaching."[4]
- "Knowledge calls for practice, and will remain if one practices it, but it will go away if not put into practice."[5]

Today, we are going to make a craft that will show us that we can be guided by the light of knowledge.

1 Shaykh Ṭabarsī, *Mishkāt al-Anwār fī Ghurar al-Akhbār*, Ḥadīth #1862.
2 Rayshahrī, Muḥammad, *Mīzān al-Ḥikmah*, Ḥadīth #2260.
3 *Mīzān al-Ḥikmah*, Ḥadīth #2198.
4 *Mishkāt al-Anwār fī Ghurar al-Akhbār*, Ḥadīth #715.
5 *Mishkāt al-Anwār fī Ghurar al-Akhbār*, Ḥadīth #718.

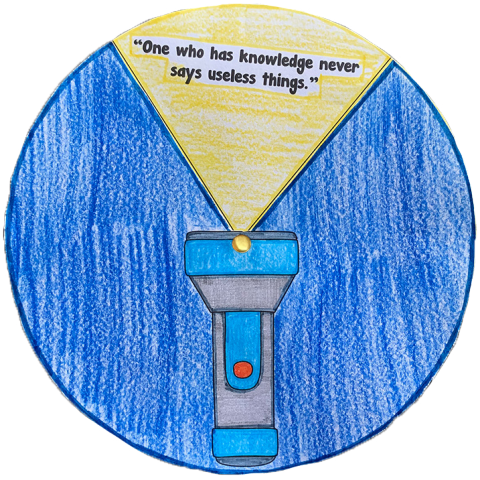
Flashlight Spinner

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 40 minutes

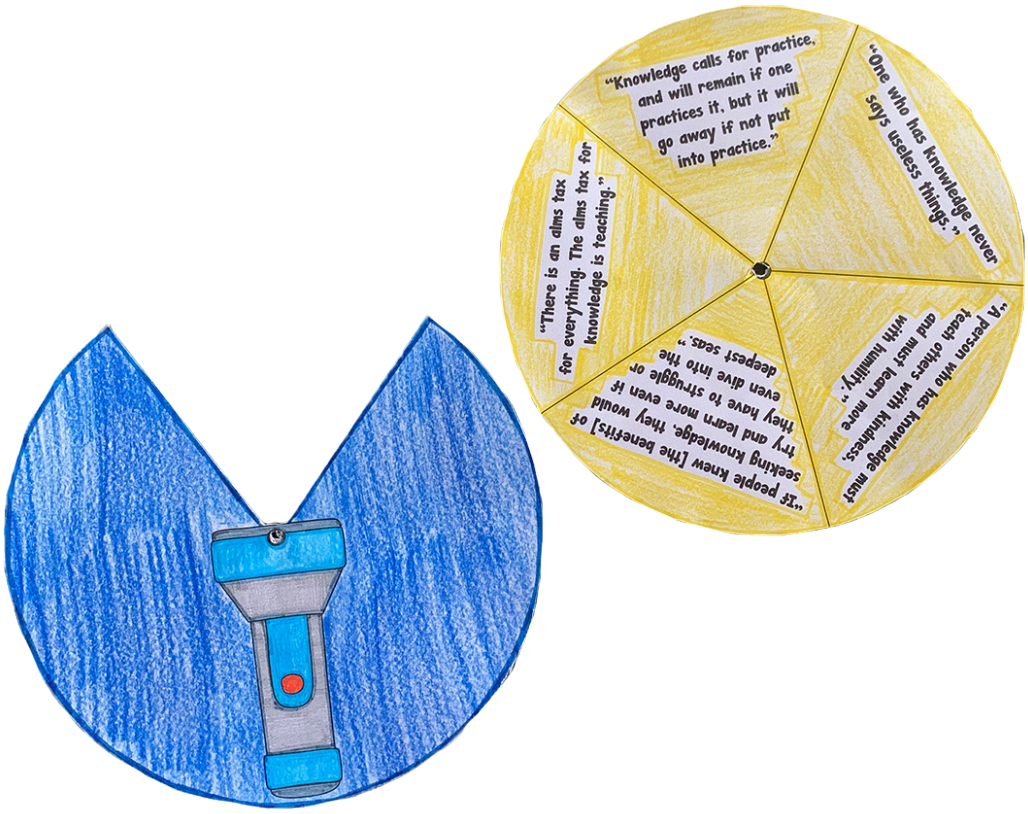
Materials:

- Flashlight spinner template
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Scissors
- Paper fastener



Procedure:

1. Color and decorate the spinner template however you like.
2. Cut out the 2 circles from the template.
3. Take the first circle and cut along the dotted lines to remove the extra piece.
4. Place the first circle over the second one with the 5 sections.
5. Make a small puncture at the center of the circles at the dot.
6. Poke the paper fastener through the hole and fasten it in the back. Now you can turn the spinner to “flash the light” on the different ḥadīth about knowledge.



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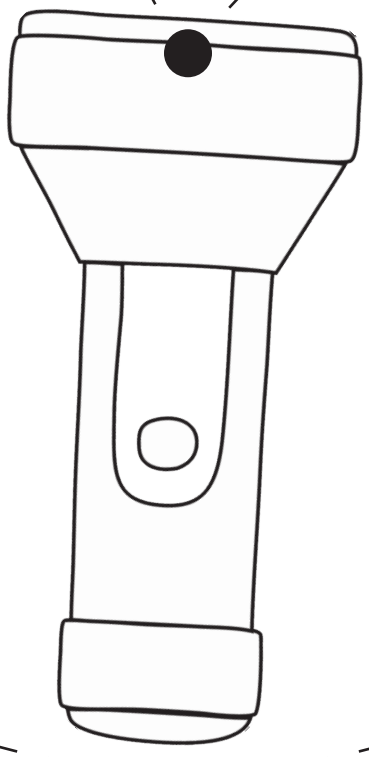
extra piece



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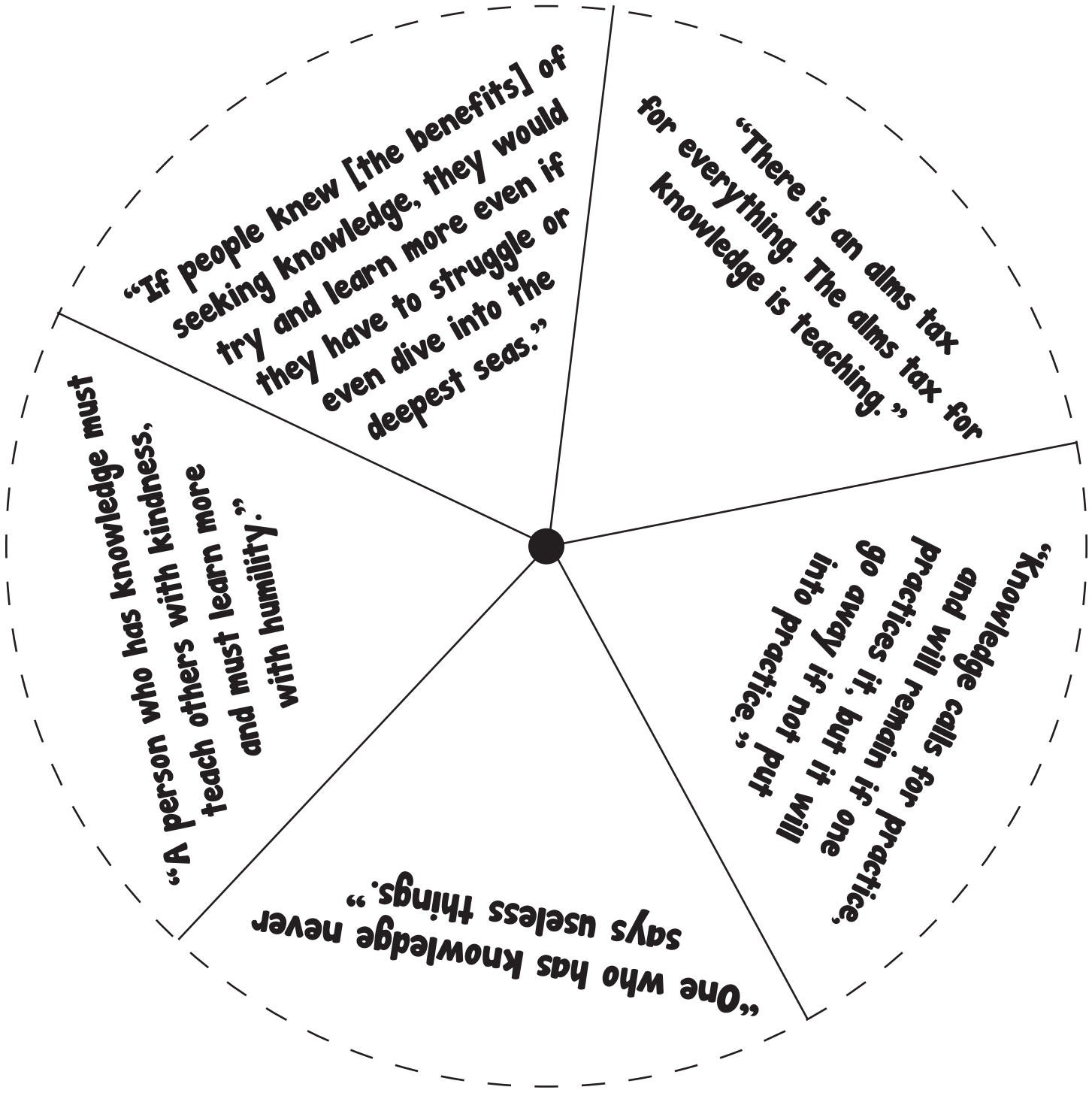
"There is an alms tax for everything. The alms tax for knowledge is teaching."
"Knowledge calls for practice, and will remain if one practices it, but it will go away if not put into practice."
"One who has knowledge never says useless things."
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"If people knew [the benefits] of seeking knowledge, they would try and learn more even if they have to struggle or even dive into the deepest seas."

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Be A Light

Objective: Students will learn about the different types of learners.

During this week, while celebrating and remembering the Noble Prophet (ṣ) and Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa), we have discussed how akhlāq and knowledge are correlated. Knowledge can affect how mindful we are, and it impacts our perspective and behavior. However, we should be aware to make sure it doesn't negatively affect our behavior. Let us see how that could happen, and how to avoid it.

According to Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa), there are three types of learners, who can be recognized by their attributes[1]:

1. The first type of learners are those who learn new things to show off to others. They pretend to be smart, but people with true knowledge know they are not sincere. These learners forget to keep Allah (swt) the center of their knowledge, and in the end, Allah (swt) will make their efforts unsuccessful.
2. The second type of learners are those who use their knowledge to control and influence others away from Allah (swt). They pretend to be humble around rich people who have less knowledge, and become followers of those equal in knowledge to themselves. Allah (swt) will cause such people to be left out of the group of true scholars.
3. The third type of learners are those who gain knowledge with mindfulness and to seek enlightenment. They spend long hours dedicated to their work while glorifying Allah (swt). They become great preachers, are known for their kindness, and are deserving of their position. They earn the respect of the people, and their closest friends hold them in awe. As a result, Allah (swt) blesses them and ensures their safety on the Day of Judgment.

We should aim to be like the third group of learners, who are humble and always ready to serve others. Sometimes, when we gain knowledge, pride takes over, or we feel like we have power over others, but we should remember Allah (swt) to keep ourselves grounded and humble. This, along with being mindful, can help us combat any arrogance or pride and become a lifelong learner. Today, we are going to make a craft that will show us how knowledge can give us an inner light, while also lighting the way for others.

1 Baqir Shareef al-Qurashi, *The Life of Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq*.

Lightbulb Craft

Suggested Ages: 5+

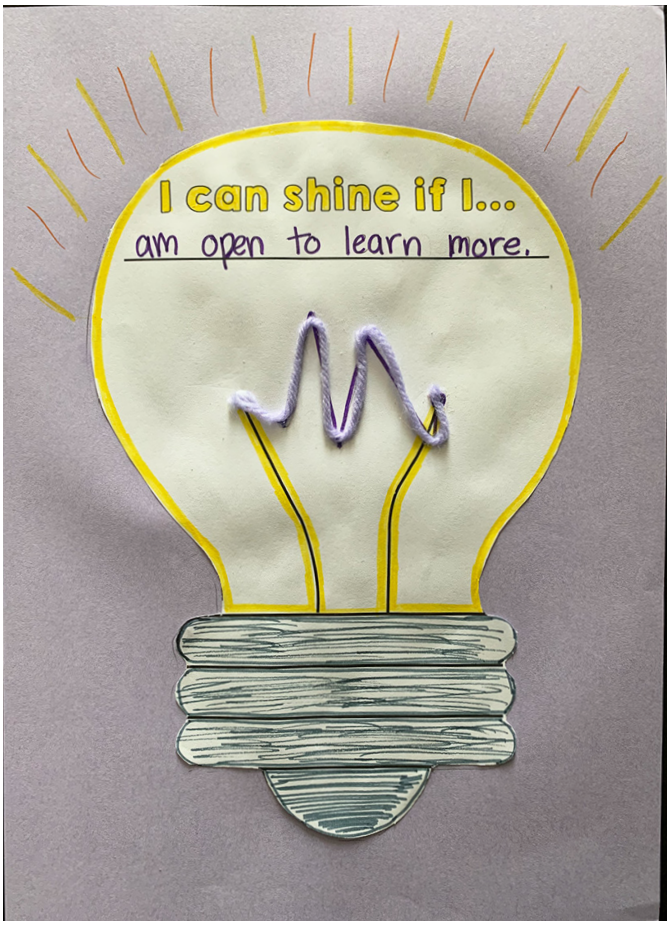
Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Lightbulb template
- Colored paper
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Marker/pen
- Scissors
- Glue/tape

Procedure:

4. Color and decorate the lightbulb however you like.
5. Write one way you can be like the third type of learner, as described in the lesson.
6. Cut out the lightbulb by cutting along the outer dotted line.
7. Glue the lightbulb to the colored paper.
8. With a marker or pen, draw a zigzag line in the lightbulb to show the filament (tiny wire inside the lightbulb). Be creative! You can use other craft materials such as yarn or pipe cleaner instead of drawing it.
9. Finish decorating the craft however you like.



I can shine if I...

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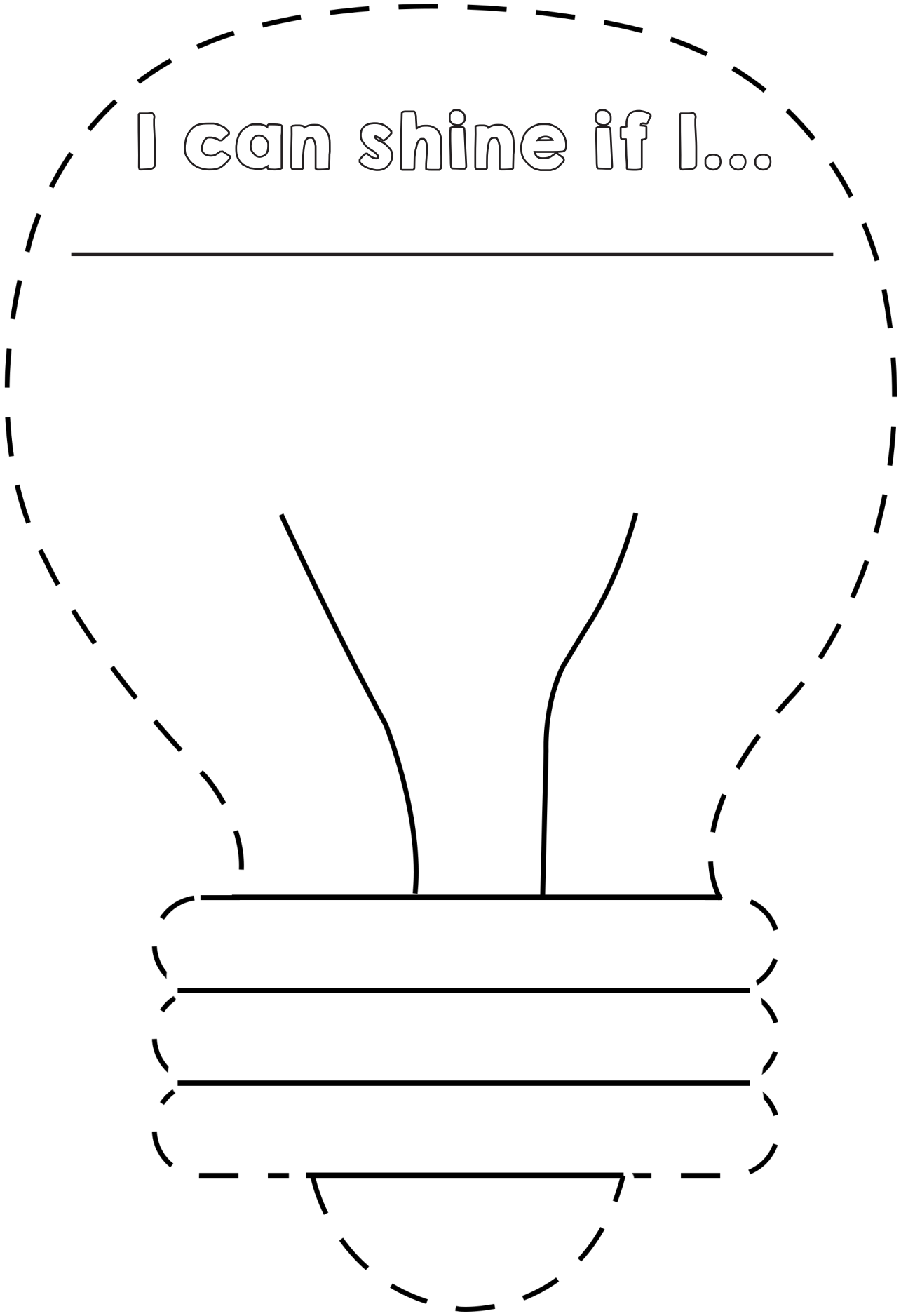

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